

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 ERDA-07 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

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TAGS:EEC,ENERG

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION'S STATEMENTS ON EUROPE'S NUCLEAR ENERGY  
NEEDS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3749

1.SUMMARY.IN RESPONDING TO THE SERIES OF QUESTIONS IN THE  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON EUROPE'S ENERGY NEEDS (REPORTED  
REFTEL)EC COMMISSIONER BRUNNER REMARKED ON APRIL 19 THAT WESTERN

EUROPE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DEVELOP ITS NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY IF  
IT WANTS TO CONTINUE TO PROGRESS ECONOMICALLY,THAT  
EC COUNTRIES ARE DEPENDENT ON US AND CANADIAN NUCLEAR FUEL  
SHIPMENTS,AND THAT HE HOPES THESE SHIPMENTS WILL RESUME  
SOON.EARLIER IN THE DAY,BRUNNER SAID THE COMMISSION DOES  
NOT BELIEVE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY  
IS CALCULATED TO WIN COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE US  
NUCLEAR INDUSTRY.PARLIAMENT IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS  
ENERGY PROBLME FURTHER DURING ITS MID-MAY SESSION.END  
SUMMARY.

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2.ON APRIL 19 EC COMMISSIONERS NATALI(ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS)AND BRUNNER MADE LENGTHY STATEMENTS IN EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT REPLYING TO MPS'MANY QUESTIONS (REPORTED  
REFTEL)RELATING TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH EUROPE NEEDS TO  
DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION,SAFETY OF VARIOUS  
TYPES OF NUCLEAR REACTORS,AND AVAILABILITY AND COST OF  
ALERNATIVE POWER SOURCES.IN INTRODUCING QUESTIONS,

MPS STRONGLY IMPLIED THEY WERE LOOKING FOR INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO REBUT NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO ARE DEMONSTRATING AGAINST BUILDING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS IN GERMANY AND ELSEWHERE IN THE EC.

3. IN INTRODUCING HIS QUESTION ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH US AND CANADA ARE FULFILLING CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS TO SUPPLY COMMUNITY PURCHASERS WITH NUCLEAR MATERIALS, DALYELL (UK, SOCIALIST) MADE STRONG ATTACK ON MOTIVES BEHIND CARTER ADMINISTRATION NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICY. DALYELL SAID PARLIAMENT'S COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND RESEARCH, OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, IS SPLIT ON US MOTIVES; MINORITY SEES US AS ALTRUISTICALLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROLIFERATION AND BELIEVES US EFFORT SHOULD BE APPLAUDED AND ENCOURAGED, WHILE OTHERS, DALYELL AMONG THEM, CONSIDER US TO BE INVOLVED IN A "CHARADE" DESIGNED TO BENEFIT THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY SINCE US FAST BREEDER PROGRAMS LAG BEHIND THOSE IN EUROPE. DALYELL ARGUED THAT US POLICY WILL STIMULATE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN REPROCESSING PLANTS AND URGED THE COMMUNITY TO "STAND UP TO THE AMERICANS" IN DISCUSSIONS RELATING TO THE RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS SHIPMENTS.

4. COMMISSIONERS' REPLIES EMPHASIZED THAT: (A) EUROPE, SHORT ON OIL AND COAL, MUST VASTLY EXPAND GENERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER (B) EUROPEANS HAVE HAD EXTRAORDINARY NUCLEAR SAFETY RECORD TO DATE; AND (C) WHILE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE EC COUNTRIES MUST TRY TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN NUCLEAR RESOURCES OVER TIME, THEY ARE BEHOLDEN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE TO OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS US AND CANADA.

5. BRUNNER FORCEFULLY ARGUED THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICIANS MUST QUICKLY BRING HOME TO THE PUBLIC IN ALL NINE COUNTRIES THE ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE REGARDING EUROPE'S NEED FOR NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT OVER THE NEXT DECADE, IF THE STANDARD OF LIVING TO WHICH EUROPEANS HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED IS TO BE MAINTAINED. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE POLITICIANS HAVE TO DATE LEFT A VACUUM INTO WHICH VARIOUS CITIZENS' GROUPS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER HAVE MOVED, AND URGED POLITICAL LEADERS TO ENGAGE THESE GROUPS FULLY IN WHAT HE ACKNOWLEDGED WOULD BE A DIFFICULT, COMPLEX DEBATE. BRUNNER CHARACTERIZED THE "ANTIS" AS BASICALLY CONSISTING OF TWO TYPES: (A) THE ROMANTIC ENVIRONMENTALISTS ("NUCLEAR ENERGY CRITICS IN SANDALS"), AND (B) "THOSE WHO WEAR BOOTS AND HELMETS" AND SIMPLY USE THE NUCLEAR ISSUE TO

INDUCE CHAOS AND TRY TO SUBVERT FREE SOCIETIES GOVERNED  
BY PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY.

6. AS REGARDS SUPPLIES FROM US AND CANADA, BRUNNER  
SAID THE EC RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES ARE GOOD AND  
HE HOPES, THEREFORE THAT DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN  
SOON TO RESUME EXPORTS TO EUROPE BEFORE ITS NUCLEAR  
SUPPLIES RUN OUT. NOTING THAT OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATE  
TO TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND SAFEGUARDS MONITORING  
BRUNNER ARGUED THAT WESTERN EUROPE HAS HAD A GOOD  
RECORD ON BOTH COUNTS. HE CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR  
MUTUAL TRUST AND SAID THAT " A NUCLEAR SHADOW OR  
CURTAIN MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL " BETWEEN WESTERN

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

7. IN HIS STATEMENT, BRUNNER MADE NO REFERENCE  
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TO DALYELL'S CHARGE THAT US POLICY IS BASED ON DESIRE  
FOR COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE. EARLIER IN THE DAY, HOWEVER,  
DURING PARLIAMENT'S QUESTION HOUR, BRUNNER DID  
ADDRESS THIS CHARGE WHEN RAISED BY ANOTHER MP. BRUNNER  
SAID THAT IN RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF US EXPORT POLICY  
PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BECAUSE OF  
RESOURCE NEEDS AND PRESENT STAGE OF THEIR EFFORTS TO  
BRIDGE RESOURCES AP, OTHER COUNTRIES' NUCLEAR REQUIREMENTS  
MIGHT BE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF THE US. BRUNNER  
SAID THAT WITH ITS FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAMS WELL  
UNDERWAY, WESTERN EUROPE'S NEEDS ARE IN FACT DIFFERENT  
AND HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTANDS THAT. THE  
COMMISSIONER CONTINUED THAT THE EC COMMISSION "HAS  
NEVER SHARED THE VIEW" THAT US POLICY IS BASED ON CALCULATIONS  
OF COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE. HE SAID FURTHER THAT BECAUSE OF US CONCERN  
ABOUT PROLIFERATION, THIS SET OF ISSUES COULD FIGURE IN US-EC RELAT  
IONS FOR SOME TIME TO COME. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD  
BE INEQUITABLE TO PRECLUDE THE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF  
NUCLEAR ENERGY AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WITHIN THE  
CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL " COOPERATIVE EC-US RELATIONSHIP"  
A WAY WOULD BE FOUND OUT OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTY.

8. FOLLOWING LENGTHY NATALI AND BRUNNER STATEMENTS,  
PARLIAMENT DEFERRED FURTHER DISCUSSION ON ENERGY ISSUE  
TO ITS MAY 9-13 SESSION.  
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